

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

B/#11
03/15/02
AS

In re the Application of: **Yoshiki NAKAGAWA et al.**

Serial Number: **09/926,254**

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: **October 1, 2001**

Examiner: Unassigned

For: **METHOD OF TREATING POLYMER**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: February 1, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A more specific production method of the above oxy anion compound is now further described. When, for example, o-, m- or p- $\text{CH}_3\text{-C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-OH}$ is used as the precursor, the base, for example potassium tert-butoxide, is charged into a reaction vessel under an inert gas atmosphere and suspended and dispersed in a solvent such as dimethylacetamide. The above methylphenol is added in an equimolar amount to this dispersion and the reaction is allowed to proceed at room temperature to 70°C for 30 minutes to 1 hour, whereupon the oxy anion compound resulting from substitution of potassium for the acidic proton is obtained.

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